

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,767,218 to *Marmaropoulos*. To expedite the prosecution of the subject application the applicants have cancelled claim 21 from the subject patent application, rendering the rejection moot.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,350,129 to *Gorlick* in view of *Marmaropoulos*; and claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gorlick* in view of *Marmaropoulos* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,522,531 to *Quintana et al.* The Examiner alleges that *Gorlick* discloses the present invention except for the specific end connectors, and that *Marmaropoulos* discloses the end connectors.

Claim 1 of the subject application is directed to a textile electronic connection system comprising a knitted, woven, or braided textile ribbon including integrated transmission elements running the length of the ribbon to transmit data and/or power along the length of the ribbon, and a fastener for connecting the ribbon to another ribbon or device, the fastener including a male portion, and a female portion, one of the male portion and the female portion on the ribbon, the other of the male portion and the female portion on the other ribbon or device, at least one of the male portion and the female portion including a deformable element which releasably locks the male and female portions together; and a connector integrated with the fastener portions and connected to the integrated transmission elements to quickly allow connection and disconnection of the ribbon to the other ribbon or device in a robust and reliable fashion.

Gorlick is directed to a wearable electronics conductive garment strap for attaching wearable electronics. However, as noted above, independent claim 1 of the subject invention includes the feature of a knitted, woven, or braided textile ribbon including integrated transmission elements running the length of the ribbon to transmit data and/or power along the length of the ribbon. This feature is also present in independent claims 24-26. *Gorlick* specifically states that the conductive wires of *Gorlick* are separated by gaps, which can be formed by simply cutting away a small portion of the conducting wires to create electrical isolation between various segments of the wires. See Col. 2, lines 60-66 and Fig. 3 of *Gorlick*. As the wires of *Gorlick* are separated by the gaps, *Gorlick* does not disclose transmission elements running the length of the ribbon as claimed by the applicant.

Accordingly, as *Gorlick* fails to disclose transmission elements running the length of the ribbon, the combination of references fails to render independent claims 1, 24, and 26 unpatentable. Dependent claims 2-7 and 20 are also patentable over the references for this reason.

Additionally, the Examiner states that *Gorlick* is silent with regards to specific end connectors, and that it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to make the end connectors of *Marmaropoulos* in combination with the device of *Gorlick*. However, *Gorlick* is not silent as to the specific end connectors. In describing the end connectors and center connectors, *Gorlick* states that “the connectors are preferably on adaptation of conventional ball and socket sew-on snaps for compatibility with conventional sewing manufacturing methods.” Col. 4, lines 63-66 of *Gorlick*. Therefore, the applicant submits that *Gorlick* does disclose the specific type of end connectors used, and one would not look to *Marmaropoulos* to make the end connectors. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine the references.

The Examiner rejects claims 20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gorlick in view of *Marmaropoulos* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,021,111 to *Wheat*; Claims 1-5, 20-21, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gorlick* in view of *Wheat*; and claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gorlick* in view of *Wheat* and *Quintana*.

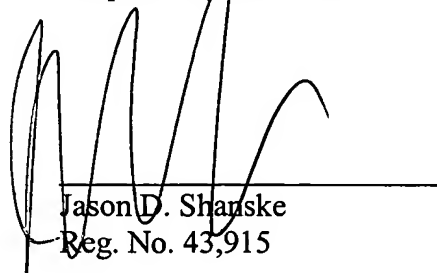
Independent claims 1, 24, and 26 are patentable over *Gorlick* for the above noted reasons. Independent claim 25 includes the features disclosed above, and therefore is also patentable over *Gorlick*. Further as with *Marmaropoulos* there is no motivation to combine *Gorlick* with *Wheat* as *Gorlick* does disclose the specific end connectors. Therefore, the claims of the subject application are patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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JDS/ok